(c) if so, by when the sanction and necessary funds are likely to be issued/released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) The ESI Corporation has already installed DG sets in ESI Hospitals at Ujjain & Gwalior. The question of installing DG sets at Indore, Bhopal & Devas is under process.

No proposals for purchase of equipments pertaining to the year 2000-2001 has been received from Govt. of Madhya Pradesh. However, a proposal under Action Plan 1999-2000 has been received from Government of Madhya Pradesh. The details of the proposal have been called for from Government of Madhya Pradesh and will be processed on its receipt.

Central Manpower Export Promotion Council

1930. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to constitute a Central Manpower Export Promotion Council;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the fresh steps taken to project manpower services that India can offer in major labour markets abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (d) The proposal to set up the Central Manpower Export Promotion Council is under consideration of the Government.

Working Population and EPFO Schemes

1931. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the country's working population and the number thereof covered under the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) Schemes; and

(b) the steps proposed to widen the schemes to include workers of the unorganised sectors to provide them social security?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) As per the 1999-2000 estimates of National Sample Survey Organisation, there were about 397 million workers, out of which 26 million have been extended benefits under Employees Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 and schemes framed thereunder.

(b) Some changes in the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 are contemplated, so as to widen the scope and streamline the implementation of the provisions of the Act.

Failure of ESI Schemes

†1932. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ESI Schemes have failed to provide social security to all due to many lapses;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that under this scheme only 10 per cent employees of the organised sector are benefited whereas employees of the unorganised sector are also covered under the scheme;

(c) if so, the main reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government propose to strengthen this scheme and to remove the lapses after identifying the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (d) The ESI Scheme applies to workers employed in factories and establishments coverable under the ESI Act and drawing wages up to Rs. 6,500/- per month. The Scheme mainly targets the workers in the organised sector. However, the workers belonging to the unorganized sector are also covered under

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.